

**First Semester Foreign Language
Draft, Exit-Level Competencies
February 4, 2008**

The standards outlined below reflect college first semester exit competencies and are equivalent to the ACTFL Novice Mid level and the CEF A1 level, with the exception of the optional cultural knowledge section.

Listening

I can understand short and simple conversations on familiar topics such as myself, my family, and my immediate surroundings when spoken slowly and clearly. I can sometimes recognize cognates, prefixes, and thematic vocabulary to help me understand live or recorded spoken language.

Reading

I can understand familiar names, words, and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues. I can understand basic questions on standardized forms well enough to give important information (name, date of birth, nationality). I can distinguish between questions, statements, and exclamations.

Writing

I can write lists, very short messages, post cards, and simple notes. I can write simple sentences describing myself and others using memorized phrases on familiar topics such as myself, my family, and my immediate surroundings. I can supply basic personal information on simple forms such as physical information and preferences.

Speaking

I can describe myself with some hesitation using memorized words and phrases and can ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics such as myself, my family, and my immediate surroundings. I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know, making myself understood by a sympathetic native speaker.

Cultural Knowledge (OPTIONAL)

I have increased knowledge and appreciation of a different culture (was: Provide cultural information to learn to appreciate a different culture).

Possible topics for inclusion in a first semester foreign language course (example: Italian)

1. Italy and the world	6. Educational system
2. Families and values in Italy	7. Spending money, bank system
3. Geography, how to place people, regional differences, dialects	8. Modern cities
4. A typical day: work, play, daily habits, meals	9. Youth and their interests
5. Health issues	10. Art, artists, authors, films, TV, cartoons, comic books